(d) the funds allotted during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (d) Due to meagre allocation of funds to this Ministry, demands for funds made by States could not be met.

However, a statement of funds allotted to the States during 1994-95, 1995-96 & 1996-97 is given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 22*]

New National Highways in Gujarat

894. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has made proposals for declaring new National Highways in the State, if so, what is the current status of these proposals and whether Government are accepting these proposals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any provision has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan to declare New National Highways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The proposals forwarded by the State Government of Gujarat for declaration of new National Highways could not be acceded to due to resource crunch in the 8th Plan.

(c) Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.

Construction of Six Track Mumbai-Pune Express Highway

895. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct six track Mumbai-pune Express Highway in Maharashtra was pending for so many months in the different Central Ministries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have okayed the proposal recently; and

(d) if so, what were the grounds of giving No Objection Certificate to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Environmental clearance for part length of the Expressway has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Financial condition of CRF

896. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and the financial condition of Central Road Funds (CRF);

(b) the guidelines for allocation of the share to different States and Union Territories from this funds;

(c) the share of Bihar from CRF during the last two years, year-wise;

(d) the reasons for allocation of lesser funds to Maharashtra as compared to other States; and

(e) the position of Maharashtra so far as National Highways are concerned vis-a-vis other States?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Central Road Fund (CRF) is a non-lapsing fund and is governed by an old resolution of Parliament whereby an amount not less than 3.5 paise per litre out of the duty of custom & excise levied on motor spirit, is set apart and the proceeds thereof have to be applied for the purpose of road development.

(b) The fund is allocated to various states in proportion to the consumption of motor spirit in the respective states as well as schemes sanctioned and availability of funds.

(c) The funds allocated to Bihar from CRF during the last two years are as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	25.00
1996-97	10.00

(d) Funds have been allocated to Maharashtra according to their entitlement.

(e) Maharashtra has a total length of 2918 km. of NH and ranks slightly behind Madhya Pradesh (2946 km.) and Rajasthan (2931 km.).

Construction of ports

897. SHRISANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has planned to build some new major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detail of the foreign investment coming to India specially for the purpose of port construction; and

(d) the main foreign companies showing interest in constructing ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The Government have entrusted a study to M/s RITES on Perspective Plan for Indian Port Sector-Vision 2020, which will cover traffic projections, critical examination of existing condition of the ports, their capacity and constraints, the scope for augmentation of capacity in short and long terms, identification and removal of other infrastructure constraints etc.

(c) The major foreign investment has been coming by way of BOT project and foreign collaboration with Indian Companies.

(d) The foreign companies which have shown interest include M/s P&O Australia, M/s Gateway Distriparks, M/s Van Oord, ACZ Waterbuow, M/s ETA Port, M/s Jim Israel Navigation Co., M/s Stalt-Nielsen, M/s Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co., M/s Evergreen, M/s Stevedoring Services of America, M/s Samsung, M/s Marubeni, M/s Keppel, M/s Lisnave.

Commissioning of new ports

898. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any study to identify the scope of Commissioning of new ports to meet the increasing needs of the country for port facilities;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the study; and

(c) what conclusions were arrived at and by when the new ports are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The Government have entrusted a study to M/s RITES on Perspective Plan for Indian Port Sector—Vision 2020 which will cover traffic projections, critical examination of existing conditions of the ports, their capacity and constraints, the scope for augmentation of capacity in short and long terms, identification and removal of other infrastructure constraints etc.

Progress of state highways projects funded by centre

899. SHRMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 175 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 1997 and state:

(a) the names of those 16 State Highways and total length thereof for which Rs. 50 crores was sanctioned during Eighth Plan;

(b) whether those projects have been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the progress thereof as on date;

(d) whether the Ninth Plan has now been finalised; and

(e) if so, the Highways and State roads identified in Orissa and other States for Central funding?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) and (c) These projects have been sanctioned recently and are at various stages of implementation.

(d) and (e) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised.